

Appl. No.: 10/651,684
Amdt. Dated: 12/30/2005
Off. Act. Dated: 10/28/2005

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and discussion presented herein.

1. **Allowability of Claims 19-20.**

The Applicant notes with appreciation Examiner's determination that Claims 19-20 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In response, and in order to expedite issuance of the allowable subject matter, the Applicant has amended the claims as follows:

(a) Claim 12 has been amended to include the subject matter of dependent Claim 19 and intervening Claim 18.

(b) Claim 20 has been amended into independent form to include the subject matter of original independent Claim 12, as well as intervening Claims 18 and 19.

Accordingly, those claims are now allowable.

(c) Claims 1-11, 18-19 and 26-31 have been canceled.

(d) Claims 21 and 25 have been amended to depend from amended independent Claim 20.

In view of the foregoing, all pending claims 12-17 and 20-25 are now in a condition for allowance.

2. **Amendments Made Without Prejudice or Estoppel.**

Notwithstanding the amendments made above, Applicant has made these amendments in order expedite allowance of the currently pending subject matter. However, Applicant does not acquiesce in the original grounds for rejection with respect to the original form of these claims. These amendments have been made without any prejudice, waiver, or estoppel, and without forfeiture or dedication to the public, with respect to the original subject matter of the claims as originally filed or in their form immediately preceding these amendments. Applicant reserves the right to pursue the original scope of these claims in the future, such as through continuation practice, for

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example.

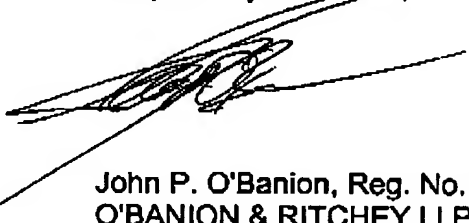
3. Conclusion.

Based on the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests that the various grounds for rejection in the Office Action be reconsidered and withdrawn with respect to the presently amended form of the claims, and that a Notice of Allowance be issued for the present application to pass to issuance.

In the event any further matters remain at issue with respect to the present application, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner please contact the undersigned below at the telephone number indicated in order to discuss such matter prior to the next action on the merits of this application.

Date: 12/30/05

Respectfully submitted,



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